Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NSAE-00 ICA-11 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-01 STR-07 DOE-15 SOE-02 DODE-00 PA-01 /145 W

R 071008Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7050 INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EGEN, MNUC, PK, US

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN'S PLANS, AID AND THE GLENN AMENDMENT

- 1. A BYLINED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN THE PAKISTAN TIMES (PRINCIPAL VEHICLE FOR GOVERNMENT RELEASES) FRIDAY MAY 5, WHICH HINTED AT MEASURED TO ENCOURAGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE NEW FIFTH PLAN COULD TAKE SHAPE ONLY AFTER THE AID TO PAKISSTAN CONSORTIUM MEETING JUNE 1.
- 2. THE ARTICLE ALSO SAID "AN IMPORTANT ISSUE AT THE FORTH-COMING CONSORTIUM MEETING MAY ALSO BE WHETHER THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING TO LIFT ITS EMBARGO ON PROJECT AID TO PAKISTAN BECAUSE OF ISLAMABAD'D PLANS TO SET UP A REPROCESSING PLANT. WASHINGTON CLAMPED THIS EMBARGO EARLY LAST YEAR IN PURSUANCE OF ITS CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION".

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3. COMMENT: DESPITE THE ARTICLE'S HINTS OF FAR REACHING MEASURES, ITS MOST CONCRETE, YET CAUTIOUSLY WORDED SUGGESTION IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FREE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION ZONES IN KARACHI AND LAHORE. THE IDEA HAS BEEN DESULTORILY DISCUSSED FOR SOME YEARS AND MENTION OF IT NOW MAY BE A TESTING OF THE WATERS BEFORE FORMALLY PUTTING IT IN THE PLAN. U.S. AID LIMITATIONS WERE PRESENTED AS

QUOTED, WITHOUT FANFARE OR COMMENT. GIVEN THE GOP BUDGET CYCLE AND NEEDED PREPARATORY TIME CONSORTIUM ACTION UNLIKELY IN FACT TO HAVE MUCH IMPACT ON EITHER THE BUDGET OR THE PLAN UNLESS COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED AND RADICAL CHANGES IN AID RELATIONSHIPS RESULT. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GOP IS HAVING A VERY HARD TIME DEVELOPING A NEW SIX YEAR PLAN, GIVEN ITS RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS AND THE NEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS OF ECONOMIC POLICIES. HUMMEL

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